

Payson Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Sites Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2003
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Manzanita Manor Nursing Home Dining Room
807 W. Longhorn
Payson

DRAFT MINUTES

Members in attendance:

Elaine Drorbaugh
Michelle Dyer
James Ehrhardt
Ellen Macnab
Jean Riddell
John Shoemaker
Jim Winter
Bob Ware

Members absent:

Nel Gusimat

ADEQ Staff in attendance:

Tina Wesoloskie, Community Involvement Coordinator
David Haag, Project Manager

Others in attendance:

Kristina Schaller
Dorothy Ehrig
Robyn Kline
Kelly Crowley
Ed Slebir
Robin Morris

PIOU #04-001

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided at the meeting:

1. *Welcome and Introductions*
Bob Ware, CAB co-chair, opened the meeting. All ADEQ staff, CAB members, and audience members introduced themselves.
2. *Acceptance or Changes to April 18, July 23, and October 8, 2002 and February 25, 2003 Draft Minutes*
John Shoemaker made a motion to accept the April 18, July 23, and October 8, 2002 and February 25, 2003 minutes as written; Ellen Macnab seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed.
3. *Discussion and Voting on CAB Application*
Ms. Wesoloskie stated that the charter allows for eleven members and two alternates on the CAB. Currently, the CAB has nine members. Ms. Wesoloskie noted that Wayne Morgan verbally resigned from the CAB.

Mr. Ware asked Robin Morris, the CAB applicant, to tell the board why he would like to join the CAB. Mr. Morris replied that this is his home for 25 years. He cares about the quality of life and the quality of the water. He stated he will attend all meetings. Jim Ehrhardt made a motion to accept Robin Morris as a CAB member; Michelle Dyer seconded the motion. All were in favor; Ellen Macnab chose to abstain from voting because Robin Morris is a friend of Ms. Macnab's.

Ms. Macnab announced that she will resign from the CAB. She stated her personal reasons for resigning from the CAB. Ms. Wesoloskie thanked Ms. Macnab for the time she has given the CAB and the valuable input she has provided.

Mr. Ware noted that everyone should think about who should be nominated for the co-chair positions. Ms. Wesoloskie stated that she will place this item on the next agenda.

4. *Review and Discussion of CAB Charter*

Mr. Ware discussed several of the charter elements including meeting attendance. Ms. Wesoloskie and Mr. Ware suggested that the CAB members review these charter elements for future discussion. Most of the suggested changes were to increase or sustain membership and attendance. Mr. Ware again stressed the importance of nominating and voting on new co-chairs at the next meeting. Mr. Ware explained some of the co-chair responsibilities including communicating with Ms. Wesoloskie on CAB agenda items. Mr. Ware discussed the termination of the charter and therefore, the termination of the CAB.

5. *Update on Payson PCE WQARF Site - David Haag, ADEQ Project Manager*

The last round of sampling was conducted in March 2003. Mr. Haag explained that the results from this sampling were consistent with previous data.

ADEQ received the results from the most recent sampling for the Rumsey Park area. All of the wells were reported below standard and non-detect, except for the Rodeo Grounds well which is at .6 parts per billion (ppb). Mr. Haag stated that the recent rain events helped to reduce the contaminant concentration.

There are some communication problems with extraction wells Skinner, EX-1 and EX-2. These wells have had several problems since they've been connected to the Expanded Groundwater Treatment System (EGTS). The Skinner well has been hit by lightening. The communication lines linked to the computers for EX-1 and Ex-2 have shorted out. Mr. Haag stated that the wells may have to be linked to a wireless communication system. One CAB member asked if the new housing development is impacting those wells. Mr. Haag replied no, but there are a couple of monitoring wells near this development. ADEQ has been able to work with the developers to leave the wells in-place.

The feasibility study report is still not completed. The report is completed except for the alternate remedy section. The two problems with the report is that methyl ethyl butyl ether (MTBE) was not accounted for and the report was too technical for its use. This section is currently in management review. This report is on hold until ADEQ has finalized the document. This report does not provide for a public comment period, however, the information in the report will be in the proposed remedial action plan (PRAP). The PRAP does allow for a public comment period. After the public comment period has expired, ADEQ issues the final record of decision (ROD) for the site. The ROD will document what final remedy has been chosen for the site. ADEQ will conduct period reviews of the remedy to ensure it still meets the remedial objectives. Mr. Haag stated that the remediation is happening faster than he originally thought. There are still some remaining hot spots behind the Texaco station and near EX-1 and EX-2.

One CAB member asked how the drought and/or large rain events could impact the remediation. Mr. Haag responded that neither of the two scenarios would be very beneficial. For example, if a large rain event, such as a monsoon, were to occur, the rain falls so quickly that it cannot absorb into the soil column. In a drought situation, ADEQ maintains the pumping as consistent as possible (about 200 gallons per minute). Below 100 gallons per minute, there is channelization of the carbon in the granular activated carbon (GAC) tanks. If only 100 gallons per minute can be pumped into the system, ADEQ may have to assess other options such as a batch tank. All of these scenarios are documented in the feasibility study.

One CAB member asked about the current longevity of the carbon. Mr. Haag replied that the carbon is currently lasting about two years. This is contingent upon the influent concentration of MTBE into the system. With a high level of MTBE coming into the EGTS, the carbon would only last about 90 to 180 days.

Mr. Haag a brief history of the remediation at the site. Mr. Haag explained how the Interim Groundwater Treatment System (IGTS) was built to reduce contaminant concentration at the source area. This system uses an air stripper with a carbon filter to treat any air emissions. The EGTS was then built to remediate contamination downgradient. Mr. Haag explained how ADEQ built the systems as part of an early response action and is now “backtracking” to fulfill reporting requirements as part of Arizona’s rules and statutes which are now in place. The feasibility study evaluated if the current remedy is enough to remediate to the end goal and when is the end predicted?

One CAB member asked what the Town of Payson pays for with respect to the remediation. Mr. Haag replied that the Town pays for normal cost of operations such as the distribution from the EGTS into the town water supply and the electricity cost of pumping the water up the extraction wells.

6. *Update on Tonto and Cherry WQARF Site*

ADEQ conducted semi-annual monitoring in March 2003. PCE concentrations have declined to just above standard (5.4 parts per billion (ppb)). However, trichloroethene (TCE), 1,2-dichloroethene (1,2-DCE), and vinyl chloride concentrations have increased beneath the source area (the former Grandway Cleaners). TCE concentrations were above standard. DCE and vinyl chloride concentrations were below standard. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for DCE is 70 ppb; the MCL for vinyl chloride is 2 ppb. When ADEQ conducted soil vapor sampling, results indicated elevated levels of PCE and propane. Propane is a good food source for bacteria. It appears that the propane broke down the PCE into its breakdown products, such as TCE and DCE.

Mr. Haag explained that the person who operated the dry cleaner for the Payson PCE also operated the dry cleaner at Bonanza Square. Mr. Haag suspects that the same equipment was used which caused the contamination at both sites.

One CAB member asked if ADEQ was still purchasing bottled water for private well owners. Mr. Haag replied yes. However, ADEQ has learned that the trailer park has since been hooked up to the town water supply. ADEQ will most likely stop providing bottled water to the trailer park. The owner of the trailer park, Mr. Hill, has declined the bottled water and continues to use his private well. Several of the private wells owners near the Payson PCE site either have wells below standard or have gone dry. Mr. Haag will most likely stop providing bottled water to those residents.

One CAB member asked about the drought conditions and remaining soil contamination in the vadose zone. If and when the water table ever rose to meet the remaining contamination, would this not again be a source of contamination to the groundwater? Mr. Haag explained that this is a potential concern. In 1994, the water table was at 18 feet below ground surface (bgs). In 1996, the water table dropped to around 30 bgs. This was previous to the any of the treatment systems coming on line. Mr. Haag also stated that the EGTS equipment and building would remain on the site even after the remediation is complete in the case that the water level rises.

The FS report does account for the potential addition of more MTBE into the EGTS. The EPA is currently working on a standard for MTBE. The current health based guidance level (HBGL) for MTBE is 94 ppb. This does not include the taste and odor thresholds. Discussion ensued regarding the source of the MTBE contamination and ADEQ’s Underground Storage Tank (UST) program.

7. *Call to the Public*

Mr. Ware asked for the Call to the Public. Ms. Schaller from the Arizona Department of Health Services spoke about the water drought task force. Interested persons can access the Arizona Department of Water Resources web page for more information. Ms. Wesoloskie asked the CAB and audience members to minimize side conversations during the meeting to avoid problems with transcription of the minutes. Mr. Ware asked some of the audience members if they would like to be CAB members. Ms. Wesoloskie stated she would mail two CAB applications to two interested audience members.

8. *Future Meeting Plans*

The next CAB meeting was scheduled for September 9, 2003 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Location to be determined.